

**2003 END OF SEASON REPORT
ANTELOPE ALLOTMENT**

TERM GRAZING PERMIT				AUTHORIZED USE				ACTUAL USE			
NO.	ON DATE	OFF DATE	H.M.	NO.	ON DATE	OFF DATE	H.M.	NO.	ON DATE	OFF DATE	H.M.
958	7/1	10/15	3370	958	7/1	10/15	3370	*	7/1	10/14	1874

*The number of cattle was variable throughout the season as the majority of the unauthorized cattle were removed midseason. They started with 413 head, one week later jumped to 698 head and ended the season with 441 head.

UNIT DATES AND UTILIZATION RESULTS:

ACTUAL GRAZING SCHEDULE			ALLOWABLE STDS	ACTUAL RESULTS
UNIT NAME	ON DATE	OFF DATE	RIPARIAN	RIPARIAN
Dry Canyon	7/1	7/20	50% (4 in)	4 inches
Iron Bog*	7/21	8/12	50% (4 in)	No Data
Smiley Meadows	8/13	9/2	50% (4 in)	4 inches
Bear Creek	9/3	9/29	50% (4 in)	4 inches
Burnt Hollow	9/30	10/14	50% (4 in)	5 inches

*Unit run in conjunction with Smiley Creek.

Allotment Inspections: Allotment inspections were conducted on the following dates: 8/4, 8/5, 8/6, 8/11, 8/12, 8/13, 8/14, 8/18, 8/19, 8/20, 8/21, 9/2, 9/4, 9/8, 9/9, 9/16, 9/18, 9/22, 10/1, 10/6, 10/14, 10/16, 10/23, and 10/27. Allotment inspections include cattle location checks and utilization monitoring. Upon my inspections I found cattle with unauthorized brands in which some of the days were spent gathering these and remedying this problem.

Information: The District experienced below average annual precipitation for the fourth consecutive year. The early part of the growing season was cool. The Antelope allotment received some rain in June resulting in a substantial amount of grazable forage, however very dry conditions in August and September provided little opportunity for recovery from grazing.

Approximately 233 head of unauthorized cattle were removed in mid August. This made placing cattle difficult with the disturbance of gathering. The remainder of the cattle were removed at the end of the season gather.

Again, David Keele did a good job as rider placing cattle for good range utilization while minimizing impacts on the riparian areas. Permittees reconstructed a water development in Dry Canyon to aide in distribution and increase usable forage. Utilization standards were met in all units along riparian areas where measurements were taken, and upland use was moderate.

Utilization: Efforts by Permittees to put up and maintain the fence around Smiley Meadows are greatly appreciated. The Meadows received moderate use this year when the wires on the fence were let down and the charger disconnected. It is unknown who did this. Sedges were grazed unevenly throughout the exclosure. The stubble height throughout, averaged 4-5 inches. Permittees expressed a desire to make the exclosure a permanent fence instead of a seasonal electric fence.

The Iron Bog Unit supported the bulk of livestock grazing on the Antelope allotment this year. With the removal of unauthorized cattle there was a lot of gathering and movement of cattle through Iron Bog. I looked at the Iron Bog drainage several times and due to the high amount of bed load and high gradient there are not large areas of established sedges to be measured on the greenline. The areas that are vegetated with sedges are small bog areas and they were not below 4 inches. The browse use in this area was very minimal.

Compliance with Unit Schedule and Project Maintenance: When the final gather of Burnt Hollow took place there were approximately 50-60 head of Cherry Creek cattle found. This boundary needs to be maintained better in the future. There were also Antelope association cattle that were overnighed on Leadbelt again this year. It was understood that this wasn't to happen but did. This can not happen again.

Recommendations: The exclosure around Smiley Meadows has been in place for 2 seasons, if permittees have determined the best place(s) for water to be developed in that area, please inform the range staff at the Lost River Ranger District. If there is still a desire to make the exclosure permanent at Smiley Meadows, let the staff know. When unauthorized cattle are seen on the allotment it would be in the best interest of the grazing association to make the Forest Service aware and remedy the problem as soon as possible. Cattle may not overnigh adjacent allotments without the cooperation of neighboring permittees and prior approval from the Forest Service.